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Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" May I know if the report contains very damaging statements about the working of these beedi factories? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :— " I cannot answer that question off-hand."

General

Order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, against the Secretaries of the Zamindari Ryots' Conference.

* 575 *Q.*—Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that prohibitory orders were issued on the Secretaries of the Reception Committee of the Zamindari Ryots' Conference (District and Provincial) that was held at Venkatagiri in Nellore district on the 8th and 9th September 1931;

(*b*) whether he will place on the table a copy of the order of the Sub-Collector as also a written statement filed in reply to the prohibitory orders;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the Reception Committee, Mr. Perumal Naidu, an ex-M.L.A., as also Mr. Biswanath Das, an ex-M.L.C., interviewed the Sub-Collector and Magistrate of Gudur regarding prohibitory orders issued under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that admission to this Conference was regulated by tickets both for the delegates and visitors; and

(*e*) whether the Government have ascertained from the Police and the Sub-Collector the reasons for their apprehension of a breach of peace?

A.—(*a*) An order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, was served on K. Kalyana Rao and K. Venkatarama Rao of whom the former was advertised to be the Secretary of the Reception Committee of the Zamindari Ryots' Conference proposed to be held on the 8th and 9th September 1931.

(*b*) Copies [a] of the order of the Joint Magistrate, Gudur, and the petition filed by the parties concerned in reply to it are placed on the table.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) It is understood that it was proposed to regulate admission for delegates and visitors by ticket.

(*e*) The reasons for the apprehension of a breach of the peace are explained in the order of the Joint Magistrate, Gudur.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" May I ask the hon. the Home Member whether it is the intention of the Government to prevent meetings wherein it might be anticipated that some speeches might be resented by the persons concerned in holding the meeting? "

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[a] Printed as Appendix IV on pages 585—588 infra.

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. The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"No, Sir; it is not the intention of the Government. I quite realize it as a very extreme step to stop a conference. It would naturally give an impression to the public that the authorities are siding with one party or another. Government have gone very carefully into this question in the present case, and they think the reasons given by the authorities in this case hold good. I hope there will be no repetition of such a thing again."

Alleged issue of a circular by the District Superintendent of Police, regarding picketing in Chittoor district.

* 576 *Q.*—Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the District Superintendent of Police, Chittoor, issued any circular that police should attend every shop where picketing is going on;

(*b*) if not, why did the sub-inspector of police and Circle Inspector and the Excise sub-inspector go on the 12th of July to the Kattamanchi toddy shop even before the picketing began at Chittoor; and

(*c*) whether the hon. the Home Member had prepared and sent any instructions to the district officers in the mufassal in the matter of picketing and in the observing of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact; if not, why not?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) Because they received information that the shop was going to be picketed in such a manner as was likely to provoke a breach of the peace.

(*c*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer to clause (*h*) of his question No. 450.

Interference by the District Superintendent of Police, Chittoor, in the matter of picketing of toddy shops in Kuppam.

* 577 *Q.*—Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether in or about August last, the District Superintendent of Police of Chittoor ordered that the number of picketers at toddy shops at Kuppam should not exceed four or five even though there may be any number of approaches to the toddy shops; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the District Superintendent of Police also issued an order under section 30 (2) of the Indian Police Act that picketing volunteers should not march in the streets of Kuppam in procession?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The hon. Member is referred to the answers to clause (*b*) and (*c*) of question No. 580.